

# The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

**Ministry: All of Us**

**Church Office: 634-5508**

**Service 10:00 AM 1st & 3rd Sundays**

**Editor and Graphics: John Maruskin • Reporting and Mailing: Pat Keith**

**Volume LXXI, Number 3 • April, 2021 • PO Box 76, Cummington MA 01026**

**cummingtonvillagechurch.org**

*Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here*

---

## Church News

Dear friends,

There are two welcome-back events coming up for the Village Church that we want to shout out as markers of spring and more.

On Sunday May 16th, we will have a dedication service as a great in-person celebration, and we hope that you can be there. We're planning for all ages.

First off, we're planning right now to be in the Village Church sanctuary with windows open and lots of flowers. Secondly it will be a chance to take a breath together and feel the perseverance of all the people locally and nationally coming through the winter and this year. If at that time being Covid smart requires an amendment of the plan, like being outside on the lawn, we'll do whatever makes sense.

It will be a welcoming of the children and a dedication to them. Lastly, I will be delighted after many months of leading zoom services, to have an in-person time together. It will be live-streamed to include new friends from Montana, Kentucky, Canada, and Connecticut who have been joining our zooms on Sundays.

Sunday April 25th the Lay-led Outdoor Service is pending on the last Sunday of the month right on the lawn of the Village Church and that will be an exciting milestone. Please call 413-563-1981 to get confirmation. Thanks to Barbara Bricker and Josh Clark who brought these important times into being. They were so nourishing in 2020 and once again will help knit-community.

Warm wishes,  
Sarah  
Rev. Sarah Pirtle

## Quaker Meeting

There will be an outdoor Quaker meeting on Sunday April 11th at 10 AM, weather permitting. Please wear masks, regardless of your vaccination status, and bring your own chairs and sit far apart in a circle at the northwest corner of the parking lot beside the Village Church.

Tim Walter will send out an email about 9 AM on Sunday April 11th as to whether or not the meeting will be held. If you have any questions, please call Tim at 413 634 8098.

---

## Greenwood News

A letter from Gregory Hayes, of Greenwood, brought this sad news:

Deb Sherr, one of the co-directors of the camp, recently circulated a note to say that Greenwood would hold a foreshortened session (four weeks, instead of five) this summer under a very strict set of circumstances—that all teachers must be fully vaccinated and masked, and that campers and counselors would remain in a “bubble”—meaning that they cannot leave the premises and that their parents, guardians, and friends will *not* be permitted on the campgrounds this summer (the Saturday-evening chamber concerts will be streamed via the camp's website). This also means the kids will not be participating in Village Church services this July.

---

## ZBA HEARING 5/12/21 AT 7 PM

The ZBA will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, to review the application of Jasa Farms LLC for a marijuana establishment on Bryant Road.

The meeting will be held at the Community House and will be virtual also. Social distancing and mask wearing will be in effect for those attending the meeting in person. A link to the full application is on the town's web site.

For personal, church needs, or questions, please contact one of the deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church at 634-5508.

## New Podcast

In this confusing and divided time, we find ourselves wondering: What do we hold in common with friends, neighbors, and others living in our communities? What do we share?

I've been asking myself these questions about the town I live in—Cummington—and have decided to try and find some answers. Hosted by **The New Rural Advocate**, with the support of Josh Wachtel, I have launched my podcast: **In These Hills with John Bye**. In each episode I talk with friends, neighbors and others about living in our town. It's new territory for me in expected and unexpected ways. Give a listen and explore it with me at: In These Hills

Thanks, John Bye

---

## Connecting for Pastoral Care Needs

We are revising how to reach out for Pastoral Care. The first step, for any reason, is to contact Pat Keith at 413-563-1981. This is a confidential call where you don't need to go into details. Pat will then refer you to Sarah as needed or to another appropriate person or service.

As you know, Sarah works for us only as a one-quarter time minister, and this helps keep the focus of her ministry realistic and manageable while honoring community needs. Pastoral Care runs the gamut from help with finances, resources and referrals, a friendly voice, and more. We want to make sure that people are thought about and that we help hold people in the community.

---

## Emergency Response Team

The Cummington Area Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and our volunteer Community Help Network are still standing by for those who need help with prescription pick-ups, companionship phone calls, and errands during the pandemic. To request assistance and/or volunteer to help, please email us at [CummingtonCERTCVHelp@gmail.com](mailto:CummingtonCERTCVHelp@gmail.com), or for those without internet access, you can call Sarah Fournier-Scanlon and Lee Fournier-Lewis at 413-634-5452, or Pat Keith at 413-563-1981 Stay safe and be well!"

The deadline for the May issue of the GWM is April 26. Any personal news, events, or anything else worth noting, please send to John Maruskin at [mrblooz@verizon.net](mailto:mrblooz@verizon.net) or Pat at [patakeith@gmail.com](mailto:patakeith@gmail.com); mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026, or leave it in the drop box marked GWM in the back entryway of the Church.

## BTES Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear community of Cummington,  
I am writing as a member of the former Berkshire Trail Elementary School Ad-Hoc Committee to provide you with an update about our work.

The BTES Ad-Hoc Committees mission is researching the best use proposal for the reuse of and to make recommendations to the Selectboard for the former BTES building and its inventory. The mission also includes the recommended uses of the Community House building.

We have been meeting regularly over the past 18 months, regretfully with a prolonged break at the beginning of the pandemic. Our attention is focused on researching and discussing the many ideas that were presented to us by the townspeople through the survey of their recommendations and desires. That was our first objective that we completed at the beginning of our work. We are incorporating the top ideas put forth in our proposal.

The Fall of 2019, the committee spent time getting to know our goals and mission and set sail on our own "Feasibility Study". We were able to study the town's committees, town citizen surveys, calculate uses and inform ourselves on possibilities of the building for a Spring Town Meeting in 2020. Unfortunately, we all needed to take a pandemic break through the spring and summer.

This past fall our committee has been meeting virtually. We have been able to share our findings from the survey with Town Officials and want to let our community know that this committee is still working on its mission for the citizens of the town. We wanted to emphasize to everyone how fortunate we are to have such wonderful possibilities for the future of our town buildings. We look forward to updating our community as we move forward with our research.

Sincerely,  
Eric Driver  
BTES Ad Hoc Committee Member

---

## Town Website

This site is sponsored by the Town of Cummington Selectboard as a resource for the citizens of Cummington to help them interact with Cummington town government and to understand the history of Cummington. There is a calendar with notices and committee meetings, hours of town officials.

<https://cummington-ma.gov>

Did you know you can pay your excise, personal property and real estate taxes on line at the website?

## Cummington Board of Health 50% Recycling Goal

In 2017, the Board of Health established a 50% recycling goal with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of the materials being recycled at the transfer station. In 2020, the Town had a recycling rate of 33.6%.

Many residents are conscientious about recycling and believe that they are properly recycling. The Board of Health encourages you to be aware of recycling's "Most Unwanted." Bagging recycling in plastic bags is one of the most common problems at the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF).

Residents are reminded to keep these items out of your recycling bin:

- No Plastic Bags in with recycling— they bind up sorting material at the MRF
- No Placement of Recycling in Plastic Bags
- No Cords or wrapping items – these shut down MRF rollers
- No Loose Shredded Paper – this is unable to be contained at the MRF
- Keep non-recyclable plastics out of the MRF container:
  - EPS( Styrofoam)— see attendant for special collection area
  - No colored/opaque Plastic Cups – place in trash
  - No Black Plastic containers – place in trash
  - No Plastic Containers that contained a hazardous material – i.e. windshield washer fluid, bleach, nail polish, motor oil, etc.

- No wet-strength paper – soda and beer sleeves and paper items from the frozen food section of the grocery store are reinforced with plastic to prevent them from collapsing when wet. These cannot be recycled into paper.
- No food waste in containers – Please rinse. Clean pizza boxes—okay. Pizza in the box is not!
- No scrap metal – it damages recycling equipment. Place in metal bin.
- No fluorescent light bulbs or CRTs—see attendant for special collection area. Mercury bulbs that are broken have had the mercury released. Place broken bulb in with your household trash.
- No aerosol cans

In addition to properly recycling, the Board of Health encourages residents to be mindful to REDUCE waste and to do all that you can to RE-USE products or repurpose them. To help reduce your food waste, the Board of Health offers Town residents *discounted pricing on Earth Machine Compost Bins*. The Town offers the bins for \$25 (retail \$99) through the HRMC. To place your order, call or email the HRMC Administrator with your name, street address, (mailing address, if different) and phone number. HRMC email: [hrcm@hrcm-ma.org](mailto:hrcm@hrcm-ma.org); phone: 413-685- 5498

When in doubt—give the attendants a shout! They are glad to answer your recycling questions.

---

## Aging Gracefully in the Hilltowns via ZOOM

A Community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging, focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully, and Befriending Death, open to all residents of the Hilltowns and beyond.

We talk about it all here, the good, the bad and the ugly! It's a chance to share challenges and solutions, hopes and fears about aging well and living fully. Practical or philosophical, funny or sad—often both at the same time. Come join us!

The group now meets via zoom at the usual time—the second Tuesday of each month from 1–3. If you would like to join us online please send an email beforehand to Annie or Lucy.

For further information please contact:

Wynne or Lucy 634 5576 [wynlucy@gmail.com](mailto:wynlucy@gmail.com)  
or Annie [annieb@crocker.com](mailto:annieb@crocker.com)

## Dog Licenses

Dog licenses are available by mail through the Town Clerk. Please send the following info along with a check made out to the Town of Cummington to: Town Clerk at PO Box 128, Cummington, MA 01026, or info and check can be dropped off in the drop box located on the east side in the back of the Community House near the back entrance. Licenses are due by March 31, 2021.

Include updated rabies vaccination, name of dog, breed, color, age, New/Renewal, spayed female, neutered male. Plus the name of owner/phone number/address. Price is \$6 for spayed and \$8 for not spayed.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meeting etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep and heat. We love having the building used!

Goodwill Messenger  
P.O. Box 76  
Cummington, MA  
01026

### **Indigenous Voices in the Berkshires**

**T**his program with two speakers will be on May 22nd  
1:00–3:00 PM.

Dr. Jus Crea Giammarino, N.D., will offer a presentation on Native Herbal Medicine. Raised with her Penobscot culture and Native American spiritual practices, Dr. Jus Crea Giammarino is certified in herbal therapy and received a doctorate in Naturopathy, acupuncture.

Rhonda Anderson is Iñupiaq-Athabaskan from Alaska. Her important life work is being a Mother, and also a classically trained Herbalist, Silversmith, activist and educator. Rhonda is focussed on better education of Native students in Massachusetts.

Location to be determined based on COVID safety guidelines. Either zoom, or in person.

*Co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project [www.nolumbekaproject.org](http://www.nolumbekaproject.org). Funded by the Cummington, Plainfield, Charlemont-Hawley Local Cultural Councils. and Mass. Cultural Council*

### **Hilltown Mobile Market**

**T**he Hilltown Mobile Market is back for a third season this summer and fall! Starting in July, we will bring our colorful veggie van to Blandford, Cummington, Huntington, and Worthington each week for twelve weeks—from July 22 to October 8—stocked with the freshest Hilltown-grown produce from our neighborhood farms.

Come and get your local lettuce, squash, potatoes, peaches, and so much more! We welcome many forms of payment including cash, credit, debit, SNAP, HIP, WIC, and Senior FMNP Coupons. You can also sign up for a Hilltown Community Farm Share to guarantee your pick of the week's harvest for as little as \$5 per week! Registration begins April 1st. For more information visit [hilltownmobilemarket.info](http://hilltownmobilemarket.info) or call or email Seva Water at [sevat@hilltowncdc.org](mailto:sevat@hilltowncdc.org) or 413-824-1840. The market is supported by Healthy Hampshire, Hilltown Community Development and the Hilltown Community Health Center.